



KICC News

A quarterly newsletter by the National Kidney Disease Education Program | Issue #9 | Summer 2009

This Issue: Coverage of CKD Education | CDC CKD Fact Sheet | NIA CKD Workshop

CMS Proposes Payment for Kidney Disease Education in Hospital Outpatient Settings

On July 2, 2009, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) issued a proposed rule stating that the agency would pay “qualified persons” for kidney disease education (KDE) services. “Qualified persons” include physicians, physician assistants, nurse practitioners, certified nurse specialists, and providers of services that are located in rural areas. For the services to be covered, they must be provided to Medicare beneficiaries with Stage 4 CKD (eGFR<30 ml/1.73m²). The proposed rule, which would be effective for services furnished on and after January 1, 2010, seeks to ensure that beneficiaries have access to outpatient services in all appropriate settings, while improving the quality and efficiency of service delivery.

“In this proposed rule, CMS is continuing to strengthen the connection between Medicare payment and efficient, high quality care,” said CMS Acting Administrator, Charlene Frizzera. “The payment proposals are also designed to ensure that when services can be performed in a variety of settings, such as a physician’s office or a hospital outpatient department, the choice of setting is based on the patient’s needs, rather than payment incentives.”

This proposal, among others, was discussed in two notices of proposed rulemaking that would revise payment policies and update the payment rates for services furnished to beneficiaries during 2010 in physician offices and in hospital outpatient departments.

To read more about the proposed rule, click [here](#):

For more information, please contact Dr. Carol Bazell at carol.bazell@cms.hhs.gov.

KICC Meeting Summary Report Now Available

The National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases and NKDEP hosted the annual Kidney Interagency Coordinating Committee (KICC) meeting on June 12, 2009 in Bethesda, MD. During the meeting, participants shared information on their agency’s programs and activities related to CKD and discussed ways to coordinate the Federal response to CKD. The meeting summary report is now available on NKDEP’s website at www.nkdep.nih.gov/about/kicc/kicc-meetings.htm.

CDC Begins Interagency Process to Develop a CKD Fact Sheet

During the KICC meeting, Dr. Sharon Saydah from the Centers of Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) presented on the agency's plan to develop a CKD fact sheet that will provide definitive information about the burden and consequences of CKD in the U.S. CDC anticipates that this fact sheet will be used and customized by partners, as needed, so it can address different needs and target audiences. The fact sheet will be updated regularly (e.g., every 2 years) and receive mini-updates on an as-needed basis.

Modeled after its fact sheet on diabetes, CDC will develop this two-page fact sheet with the help of many key partners, including KICC members and patient advocacy groups.

The agency will develop a first draft that will be distributed to a larger group of reviewers for comments and feedback. The target release date is March 11, 2010, which is World Kidney Day. *For more information, please contact Dr. Sharon Saydah at ssaydah@cdc.gov and/or Dr. Desmond Williams at dewilliams@cdc.gov.*

NIA Publishes Article Summarizing Workshop about CKD in Older Adults

CKD is a growing problem among the aging population. In fact, the number of patients over 65 years of age with ESRD has almost doubled since 1996. To help raise awareness of this issue, the National Institute on Aging (NIA) summarized and published the outcomes of a workshop on CKD in older adults in the July 2009 issue of the *Journal of the American Society of Nephrology* (Vol. 20, p. 1199-1209). Supported by a grant from the John A. Hartford Foundation to the Association of Specialty Professors (ASP), the workshop was organized by the ASP and the American Society of Nephrology, in collaboration with NIA and NIDDK.

Held early last year in Arlington, VA, the workshop reviewed the current state of CKD knowledge, identified research gaps and resources available to address them, and identified priority areas for future research. The workshop organizers anticipate that answers to emerging research questions will support the integration of geriatrics and nephrology, and ultimately improve care for older patients at risk for CKD. *For more information, please contact Dr. Susan Nayfield at nayfiels@mail.nih.gov.*

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**Please send your story ideas for future
issues of *KICC News* to Eileen Newman at
eileen.newman@nih.gov.**